

Document 215 of 576**ENVELOPE**

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HEADER

R 100631Z AUG 94
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUCMACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI IOC BOLLING AFB DC//DTA//
RUDMGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ2/DIA REP//
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//CC/DOA//
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 100631Z AUG 94
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA/DPMO-RA//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6957
INFO RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//JOL//
RUAGOTC/CINCUNC SEOUL
RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PEZ//
RUHQHQE/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 1302
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/[REDACTED]
BT

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CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 022556

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, RS
SUBJECT: POW/MIA: TFR TRIP TO UKRAINE AUGUST 1-4, 1994

REFERENCE: A. TFR MESSAGE DATED 261301 Z FEB 94

1. SUMMARY: BETWEEN 1-4 AUGUST 1994, TASK FORCE RUSSIA (TFR) CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS IN UKRAINE. RETIRED COLONEL GENADY NIKOLAYEVICH TITOV OF KIEV STATED HE HAD NO INFORMATION RELATED TO AMERICAN POWS. RETIRED CAPTAIN STEPAN LEONTYEVICH KIRITENKO OF CHERNIGIV TALKED ABOUT HIS FLYING EXPERIENCE IN KOREA FROM 1949 TO 1953. MR CHYONG CHANG AND HIS NEPHEW TRAN PROVIDED IDENTIFICATION MATERIAL CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE REMAINS OF TWO US SERVICEMEN. SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO CONTACT MR DOROFYEV OF "OBELISK" GROUP AND A FORMER MILITARY ADVISER TO VIETNAM NIKOLAY ALEKSEYEVICH VASELENKO. END SUMMARY.

2. GENADY NIKOLAYEVICH TITOV

ON AUGUST 1, 1994, TFR TEAM MEMBERS SEMENEC AND TABACH TRAVELLED TO KIEV, UKRAINE, TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS. ON AUGUST 2, 1994, TFR TRIED TO CONTACT RETIRED COLONEL GENADY NIKOLAYEVICH TITOV, A FORMER ANTI-AIRCRAFT (AA) ELECTRONICS ENGINEER. TFR TEAM WENT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY DOROFYEV, BUT IT PROVED TO BE INCORRECT. TFR TEAM PROCEEDED TO THE REGIONAL VOYENKOMAT (COMMISSARIAT) AT SHAMRILA ST., 19. KIEV, UKRAINE. AT THE VOYENKOMAT A DUTY OFFICER MAJOR IGOR VOLODIMIROVICH GOYKO PROVIDED TITOV'S SERVICE RECORD FOR TFR TO REVIEW. THE SERVICE RECORD STATED THAT TITOV WAS A RADIO ELECTRONIC ENGINEER, AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SPETZ CHAST' (SPECIAL DETACHMENT) FROM 1965 UNTIL 1971. TFR TEAM ALSO OBTAINED TITOV'S ADDRESS FROM HIS SERVICE RECORD: UKRAINE, KIEV, LEPSE BLVD., BLD. 44, APT. 33. TELEPHONE # (044) 484-0129. AT THE INTERVIEW, TITOV STATED THAT HE WAS AN AA ELECTRONIC RADIO ENGINEER AND WOULD TRAVEL TWO TO THREE TIMES A YEAR TO NORTH VIETNAM TO REPAIR DAMAGED AA EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THAT HE NEVER SAW ANY AMERICAN POWS, AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THEY WERE DETAINED OR WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. TITOV SAID THAT IN HANOI THERE WAS A STATIC DISPLAY OF DOWNED AMERICAN PLANES. CONCERNING AMERICAN POWS, TITOV SAID THAT ONCE HIS VIETNAMESE INTERPRETER TOLD HIM THAT BLACK PILOTS WERE TREATED MUCH WORSE THEN THE WHITE ONES. TITOV PROVIDED TWO MORE NAMES OF

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS WHO SERVED WITH HIM: YURI PAVLOVICH ANDRYUKHA, TELEPHONE # (044)547- 4188, AND VECHESLAV MAKSIMOVICH TAZIN, NO TELEPHONE # AVAILABLE. TITOV SAID THAT TAZIN AND ANDRYUKHA ARE RELATED TO EACH OTHER.

3. CHYONG CHANG

ON AUGUST, 3, 1994 TEAM MEMBERS MET WITH CHANG AND HIS NEPHEW TRAW FROM VIETNAM AT THE CHANG'S FLAT IN KIEV (REFTEL A). BOTH OF THEM APPEARED TO BE VERY UPSET ABOUT SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TRYING TO CONTACT TRAN ABOUT AMERICAN REMAINS. CHANG IMPLIED THAT TFR HAD APPARENTLY SHARED ITS INFORMATION ABOUT CHANG AND TRAN WITH OTHERS, AND NOW THESE OTHER PARTIES WERE TRYING TO DEAL WITH TRAN. CHANG REINFORCED THAT THEY WANT TO DEAL ONLY WITH TFR. TRAN PRESENTED TFR TEAM WITH INFORMATION WRITTEN ON A PIECE OF PAPER, IN THE FORMAT OF A DOG TAG FOR: LENT, MICHAEL M, US 52779750, AB POS, 073 34 9621, JEWISH. ALSO, ON THIS PIECE OF PAPER WAS A DRAWING THAT TRAN CLAIMED TO BE OF A SHOULDER PATCH AND A RANK INSIGNIA BELONGING TO MICHAEL LENT. (TFR NOTE: A DRAWING OF THE PATCH AND INSIGNIA WILL BE FAXED SEPARATELY. LENT DOES NOT APPEAR ON A LIST OF POW/MIA PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO TFR.) AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, TRAN SHOWED TFR TEAM A PICTURE OF A GENEVA CARD BELONGING TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TRAN STATED THAT [REDACTED] WAS NOT SHOT DOWN, BUT RATHER HIS PLANE CRASHED INTO A MOUNTAIN IN 1967. TRAN ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT [REDACTED] WAS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S NEPHEW. CHANG CLAIMED THAT HIS FAMILY IN VIETNAM POSSESSES

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
REMAINS OF THE TWO AMERICANS MENTIONED PLUS ONE MORE. CHANG STATED THAT IDENTIFICATION OF THE THIRD AMERICAN WOULD NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL THE AMERICAN SIDE COMPENSATES HIS CONTACTS BACK IN NORTH VIETNAM FOR EXPENSES INCURRED DURING SAFE KEEPING OF THE THREE AMERICAN REMAINS. ACCORDING TO TRAN THE EXPENSE BILL HAS REACHED 5,000 DOLLARS. TRAN SHOWED TFR TEAM MOSCOW-HANOI-MOSCOW AEROFLOT TICKET FOR 2,000 DOLLARS. HE CLAIMED THAT HE USED THIS TICKET IN ORDER TO FLY TO VIETNAM AND OBTAIN INFORMATION ON LENT AND MADDOX. CHANG STATED THAT THE FAMILY IN VIETNAM WANTS TO SELL THE REMAINS OF THREE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN, AND THEY ALREADY HAVE RAD SOME OFFERS FROM THE CHINESE AND THE "INTURIST". ONCE MORE, TFR TEAM EXPLAINED TO CHANG IN GREAT DETAIL THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PAY FOR THE RETURN OF REMAINS OF THEIR SERVICEMEN. CHANG TRIED TO ARGUE THAT IT WILL NOT BE A PAYMENT FOR THE REMAINS, BUT

RATHER IT WILL BE A COMPENSATION BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE HARDSHIP CAUSED TO THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM. TFR TEAM RESPONDED THAT THEY ARE AUTHORIZED TO COMPENSATE ONLY THE EXPENSES ACQUIRED WHILE ESTABLISHING THE FATE OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. CHANG'S DAUGHTER, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING MOST OF THE DISCUSSION, IS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT. AT THE END OF THE MEETING SHE ASKED JUST HOW RELIABLE US TECHNOLOGY WAS IN IDENTIFYING REMAINS. TEAM MEMBERS REASSURED HER THAT THE US HAS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT THAT WAS EXTREMELY RELIABLE, AND THAT IT WAS THE BEST IN THE WORLD. (COMMENT: THE DAUGHTER WAS CERTAINLY PROBING TO DETERMINE JUST HOW WELL THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY REMAINS, AND ADDED TO TFR'S SUSPICION ON THE RELIABILITY OF CHANG AND TRAN. END COMMENT) TFR TEAM SAID THAT THEY WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH CHANG IN THE FUTURE.

4. STEPAN LEONTYEVICH KIRITENKO

ON AUGUST 3, 1994, TFR TEAM TRAVELED BY CAR TO CHERNIGIV, UKRAINE TO INTERVIEW RETIRED SOVIET AIR FORCE CAPTAIN STEPAN LEONTYEVICH KIRITENKO. ADDRESS: UKRAINE, CHERNIGIV, KARL MARX ST, BLDG 16, APT. 37. TELEPHONE #(04622) 78-7-71. AT KIRITENKO'S FLAT TFR TEAM WAS MET BY MIKHAIL YAKOVLEVICH GANGARENKO, A REPORTER FOR THE REGIONAL NEWS AGENCY AND ALEXANDER PETROVICH SAVCHENKO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGIONAL TV COMPANY. THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW WITH KIRITENKO WAS VIDEO TAPED BY CHERNIGIV TV. KIRITENKO SAID THAT HE IS SEVENTY THREE YEARS OLD. HE SERVED AS A PILOT FROM 1939 UNTIL 1953 AND FLEW MIG-15 COMBAT MISSIONS IN KOREA FROM 1949 UNTIL 1952. KIRITENKO SAID HE SERVED UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL KOZHEDUB AND WAS BASED IN ANTUNG, KOREA. KIRITENKO CLAIMED THAT IN 1952 HE HAD TO CATAPULT OUT OF HIS PLANE AND SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED SOME DAMAGE TO HIS HEARING. THEREFORE, DUE TO HIS MEDICAL CONDITION HE WAS FORCED TO RETIRE IN 1953. KIRITENKO COULD ONLY RECALL THE FIRST TIME HE SHOT AN F-86 FROM BEHIND. HE CLAIMED THAT THE F-86 FLEW TOWARDS THE SEA AFTER BEING DAMAGED, AND KIRITENKO'S ORDERS WERE NOT TO CHASE HIM TOWARDS THE SEA. KIRITENKO STATED THAT HE DID NOT SEE THIS F-86 CRASH, AND HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PILOT AFTER HE DISAPPEARED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SEA. KIRITENKO ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT REMEMBER WHEN AND WHERE THE INCIDENT EXACTLY OCCURRED. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT KIRITENKO VAGUELY RECALLS THAT HIS LEAD MAN, MAJOR PYOTER SERGEYEVICH MELAWISHKIN, CRASHED INTO AN AMERICAN F-86 DURING A CHASE. BOTH PILOTS CATAPULTED. KIRITENKO DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE AMERICAN PILOT. KIRITENKO THINKS THAT THE AMERICAN PILOT WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN HE WAS

PARACHUTING DOWN. KIRITENKO REMEMBERED THAT AFTER THE CRASH, HE AND MELAWISHKIN WERE SHOWN AN IDENTIFICATION CARD BELONGING TO WILLIE CROWN, AND WERE TOLD THAT THIS WAS THE PILOT WHO MALAWISHKIN CLASHED WITH. ACCORDING TO KIRITENKO THEY WERE NOT INFORMED IF CROWN WAS DEAD OR ALIVE.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/
KIRITENKO SAID THAT ONCE HE SAW AN AMERICAN F-86 ON A BEACH. HE SAID THAT THE PLANE LANDED INTACT, THE PILOT WAS RESCUED BY A HELICOPTER, AND THE GUN SIGHT, THE MOST DESIRABLE PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SOVIETS, WAS BLOWN UP. KIRITENKO SAID THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PLANE LATER ON. KIRITENKO CLAIMED THAT AT ONE TIME THEY SHOT DOWN 16 UNESCORTED AUSTRALIAN BOMBERS. HE STATED THAT OFTEN THERE WERE AMERICAN BOMBERS SHOT DOWN AS WELL, BUT HE DOES NOT REMEMBER ANY DETAILS, SUCH AS NUMBER OF PLANES, PARACHUTES OR EVEN APPROXIMATE DATES. KIRITENKO EVEN HAD SOME TROUBLE REMEMBERING IF HE HIMSELF SHOT DOWN TWO OR THREE AMERICAN PLANES IN KOREA. AFTER THE MEETING WITH KIRITENKO, TFR TEAM WENT TO CHERNIGIV REGION TV COMPANY AT THE REQUEST OF ITS DIRECTOR ALEXANDER KOPILOVSKIY. KOPILOVSKIY OFFERED HIS ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING OTHER VETERANS IN CHERNIGIV THROUGH HIS TV COMPANY. HE IS INTERESTED IN PRODUCING A DOCUMENTARY WITH TFR ASSISTANCE. TFR TEAM THANKED KOPILOVSKIY FOR HIS OFFER.

5. VASILENKO, DOROFEYEV

ON AUGUST 2, 1994, TFR TEAM ARRIVED AT THE "OBELISK" OFFICE IN KIEV FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH DOROFEYEV. UNFORTUNATELY, DOROFEYEV DID NOT RETURN ON TIME FROM HIS TRIP TO SEVASTOPOL. TFR TEAM MADE PLANS TO MEET WITH DOROFEYEV ON THE RETURN TRIP TO KIEV. SEVERAL PHONE CALLS WERE MADE TO VASILENKO'S RESIDENCY, BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER. TFR TEAM WILL TRY TO OBTAIN VASILENKO'S HOME ADDRESS AND CONTACT HIM IN THE FUTURE.

6. ASSISTANCE FOR TFR

TFR REQUESTS THAT DPMO ASSIST IN:
- CLARIFYING STATUS AND MAKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO TFR CONCERNING LENT, MICHAEL M.
- ESTABLISH IDENTIFICATION AND ORIGIN OF THE SHOULDER PATCH THAT WAS FAXED.
GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH CHYONG CHANG AND TRAN.

7. TASK FORCE RUSSIA SENDS. PICKERING

ADMIN

BT

#3058

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